

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P R 231200Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4701

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 3875 DTG 091750Z JUL 75

SUMMARY: BUILDUP IS CONTINUING FOR "POPULAR POWER" DEMONSTRATION TONIGHT, OCT 23, IN DOWNTOWN LISBON. COMMUNIST AND FAR LEFT SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS ARE PUSHING FOR LARGE TURNOUT TO BOLSTER THEIR CLAIM THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS ARE MORE VALID INDICATOR OF POPULAR SUPPORT THAN BOURGEOISE ELECTIONS. WITH RADIO RENASCENCA BACK ON THE AIR, TONIGHT'S LISBON DEMONSTRATION, AND THE STILL SMOLDERING POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE AN EXCEPTIONALLY FULL AGENDA WHEN IT MEETS LATER TODAY.
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END SUMMARY.

1. PREPARATIONS FOR DEMONSTRATION: BUILDUP CONTINUES FOR TONIGHT'S (OCT 23) "POPULAR POWER" DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON. COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS CONTINUES TO GIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO PREPARATIONS, PUBLISHING LONG LISTS OF ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT. COMMUNISTS ISSUED STATEMENT OCT 22 CALLING UPON ALL TRUE REVOLUTIONARIES TO ATTEND. UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FUR), FELLOW-TRAVELING RADICAL COALITION, AND VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF RADICAL SOLDIER ORGANIZATIONS "SOLDIERS UNITED WILL WIN" (SUV) HAVE ALSO DECLARED SUPPORT. SUV SECRETARIAT IN LISBON, HOWEVER, REFUSED TO ENDORSE RALLY ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS PARTISAN AFFAIR. BOTH SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE DEMONSTRATION.

2. FABIAO INTERVIEW: ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF CARLOS FABIAO TOLD TELEVISION INTERVIEWERS OCT 22:

-- ON PEOPLE-AFM GUIDE DOCUMENT: WAY OUT OF IMPASSE CAUSED BY LACK OF STRONG GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY INSTABILITY WAS REESTABLISHMENT OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) UNITY BASED ON THE RADICAL PEOPLE-AFM "GUIDE DOCUMENT" OF JULY 9, (SEE REFTEL);

-- ON SUV AND LEFTIST REACTION: LEFTIST CIVILIAN AND MILITARY (SUV) REACTION TO AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE;

-- ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO LEFT: GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE "CONCRETE STEPS" TOWARD SOCIALISM IN ORDER TO PUT THE LEFT AT EASE;

-- ON MILITARY INTERVENTION GROUP (AMI): FABIAO DEFENDED CREATION OF AMI AND SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT COMMANDOS FOR ANGOLAN SERVICE TO ENSURE SMOOTH TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE.

-- ON PIRES VELOSO: FABIAO TOOK INDIRECT SWIPE AT NORTHERN REGION COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO BY SAYING THAT HE, FABIAO, HAD NOT YET FOUND CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF ANY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTS BY VELOSO.

-- ON POLITICAL PARTIES: FABIAO SAID UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES WAS ESSENTIAL FOR POLITICAL STABILITY. EARLIER, SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER "A LUTA" REPORTED THAT OCT 21 MEETING OF PRESIDENT, PCP AND PS HAD BEEN TOTAL FAILURE AND THAT PS HAD REFUSED TO EXCLUDE PPD FROM GOVERNMENT. PPD REACTED WITH OCT 22 STATEMENT PROTESTING ITS EXCLUSION FROM OCT 21 MEETING.

3. POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS: POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION REMAINED UNSETTLED.

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-- PLENUM OF NORTHERN MILITARY REGION SOLDIERS, SPONSORED BY SUV, IS SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW, OCT 24, IN SERRA DE PILAR ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RASP) FACILITIES. OPORTO POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLANNING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE RASP IN SUPPORT OF PLENUM.

-- RASP SOLDIERS, MEANWHILE, STILL SMARTING FROM WHAT THEY ALLEGE TO BE NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMITMENTS MADE BY GENERAL FABIAO, HELD MEETING OCT 22 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.

-- IN LISBON, AIR FORCE SERGEANTS MET OCT 22 AND ISSUED MANIFESTO-

STATEMENT REplete WITH FAMILIAR RADICAL THEMES. THEY CALLED FOR, INTER ALIA, ACTION ON APPROVED PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AIR FORCE SERGEANTS' ORGANIZATION.

4. VASCO GONCALVES RETURNS TO DUTY: ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (ANOP), VASCO GONCALVES WILL SOON RETURN TO ACTIVE DUTY AS HEAD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER MILITARY STUDIES. APPOINTMENT RECALLS TO MIND GEN. OTELO SARAIVA DO CARVALHO'S RECENT COMMENT THAT GONCALVES WOULD BE USEFUL AS A "THEORETICIAN OF THE REVOLUTION."

5. COMMENT: COMMUNIST-LINING MEDIA HAS GIVEN TONIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION TOP BILLING IN WHAT IT HAS LABELED YET ANOTHER "DECISIVE WEEK" FOR THE REVOLUTION. BOTH COMMUNISTS AND FAR LEFT HAVE PUSHED HARD TO ENSURE A LARGE TURNOUT, WHICH THEY HOPE TO USE TO BOLSTER THEIR CLAIM THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS ARE A MORE VALID INDICATOR OF POPULAR SUPPORT THAN BOURGEOIS ELECTIONS. FABIAO'S EQUIVOCAL STAND ON DISCIPLINE AND PLUGS FOR AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS AS WAY OUT OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WILL GIVE FURTHER CAUSE FOR MODERATES, PARTICULARLY POPULAR DEMOCRATS, TO PRESS FOR HIS OUSTER. WITH RADIO RENASCENCA BACK ON THE AIR, TONIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION, AND THE STILL SMOLDERING POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE AN EXCEPTIONALLY FULL AGENDA AT ITS MEETING LATER TODAY.
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